



April 2005

## Leon County Health Department

Issue 6

### Points of Interest

#### Animal Control

Animal Control received a reported horse bite to a human over the weekend off Sunray Road. The horse is 23 years old gelding. The owner is unable to prove rabies vaccination. Animal Control checked with the two veterinarians the owner provided and neither clinic show records of a rabies shot. The owner/victim went to the hospital. Animal Control has the horse under fourteen-day quarantine.

#### Main Clinic

2965 Municipal Way,  
Tallahassee, FL 32304  
Roberts and Stevens

1515 Old Bainbridge Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

#### South Side

872 West Orange Avenue,  
Tallahassee, FL 32310

#### Environmental Health

3401 West Tharpe Street,  
Tallahassee FL 32304

**Disease Reporting**  
**From 8:00 – 5:00**  
**Call 487-3186 After hours Call 201-0804**

**Disease Reporting:** suspected or diagnosed communicable diseases call 487-3186 (8 am - 5pm Monday thru Friday) and call 201-0804 (after hours, holidays and weekends).

**White Powder Reporting:** suspected white powder call 487-3162 (8 am - 5pm Monday thru Friday) and call 201-0804 (after hours, holidays, and weekends).

### FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH E. COLI O157:H7 / HUS INVESTIGATION UPDATE

Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS) is a reportable medical condition in the State of Florida. Clinical characteristics of HUS include hemolytic anemia, renal injury, and low platelet count. HUS primarily occurs following a gastrointestinal illness and is most commonly associated with shiga-like toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (SLTEC), including *Escherichia coli* O157:H7. In addition, HUS may be related to other types of bacteria, viruses and fungi. HUS primarily affects children < 5 years of age and elderly persons. The red blood cells are destroyed and the kidneys fail. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 2%-7% of *E. coli* O157:H7 infections lead to HUS.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) is working closely with state and local partners to continue investigating reported cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 and/or Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome

(HUS) in Central Florida. On April 8, 2005, DOH Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., joined Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson to announce a definitive link between the outbreak strain of O157:H7 and animals that were part of a petting zoo exhibit at each of three Central Florida fairs. Updated numbers as of 4/7/05 are the following:

#### CONFIRMED CASES

- 23 cases (1-20 years old)
- 3 cases (20+ years old)

#### SUSPECT CASES:

- 27 cases (1-20 years old)
- 15 cases (20+ years old)

#### CASE DEFINITION

Screening criteria are critical to determining if a case needs further investigation. Our screening criteria fall into the following two categories:

- Suspected case: Individuals with diarrhea with variable severity (from mild to

severe and bloody) who have recently attended Florida fairs or festivals.

- Confirmed case: An individual with diarrhea with variable severity (from mild to severe and bloody) that has tested positive for *E. coli* O157:H7 and/or a diagnosis of HUS, and has recently attended Florida fairs or festivals.

#### Resource Information for Facts and Resources about E-Coli O157 and Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS)

DOH Bureau of Epidemiology Website at [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us) or <http://www.doh.state.fl.us> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Veterinary for animal-related inquiries [www.doacs.state.fl.us](http://www.doacs.state.fl.us) or <http://www.doacs.state.fl.us> The Florida Department of

### Hepatitis Awareness and Education Day at the Florida Capital

Health (DOH) hosted the second annual **Hepatitis Awareness and Education Day at the Florida Capitol** on February 23, 2005. Representative Rene Garcia joined DOH Deputy State Health Officer Bonnie Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A., Dr. David Nelson, Director of Hepatology and Liver Transplantation at University of Florida and community members to promote education and to encourage hepatitis testing, vaccination, prevention, and control. Nurses from Leon County Health Department and Lee County Health Department provided free hepatitis A, B,

and C testing and administered hepatitis A and B vaccines.



# Leon County Health Department

Leon County Reportable Disease Data for 2005 Year to Date (January 1-April 6, 2005)

Hepatitis C	64
Streptococcal pneumoniae	12
Tuberculosis	8
Giardiasis	4
Salmonellosis	4
Hepatitis B	2
Meningococcal Disease	2

## STD Awareness Month.

April is Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Awareness Month. The Florida Department of Health Bureau of STD encourages Floridians to become informed and empowered by knowing about sexually transmitted infections, methods of prevention, signs and symptoms, treatments available, and services offered to the local communities as part of public health.

The Bureau of STD staff and County Health Department STD Programs are dedicated to providing confidential counseling, testing, and educational materials. There will be local activities taking place throughout the month of April. Go the Bureau of STD website for information and county activity details at [www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease\\_ctrl/std/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctrl/std/index.html)

### Patient Education Information Remember the ABCs of STD:

- Avoid behaviors that may increase the risk for infection.
- Become informed about sexually transmitted infections including signs, symptoms, risks and available treatments and counseling options.
- Care about yourself and others through STD prevention, screening and treat-



**Reminder! HIV, syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia are reportable diseases**

## IMMUNIZATION NEWS AND UPDATES

### National Immunization Hotline

On March 15, 2005, the telephone number for the national immunization hotline was changed to 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO). The change is reflected on all Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) and the information is available in both English and Spanish. The VISs are information sheets produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that explain to vaccine recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives both the benefits and risks of a vaccine. Federal law requires that VISs be handed out before each dose of certain vaccinations is given. Access the following CDC website to obtain current VISs: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/default.htm>. VISs posted on this webpage contain the new number in the "How can I learn more?" section.

Calls made to the old hotline number will be forwarded to the new number for several months. VIS dates have not changed. The new phone number is the only difference between the old VISs and the new ones. VISs are not updated annually or on any other routine schedule. An updated VIS with a new date is posted when there

is a change in recommendations. To access updated VISs in English and 31 additional languages, go to IAC's VIS web section at <http://www.immunize.org/vis>

### 2005 National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW)

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization is pleased to announce the 2005 National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) theme: **"Love them. Protect them. Immunize them. Vaccination: An Act of Love."** Our nation's success in achieving high levels of infant immunization coverage is the result of the work that local and state health departments, immunization coalitions, individual health care professionals, parents and other partners do throughout the year.

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to promote the benefits of immunizations and to highlight the importance of immunizing infants against 12 vaccine-preventable diseases by age two. This year NIIW will be held during April 24-30, 2005. Numerous events are planned in the United States to celebrate NIIW and over 500 communities throughout the U.S. are expected to participate in NIIW. To find out how others

will celebrate visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/events/niiw/2005/05activities.htm>.

NIP will again make available the Spanish and English television PSAs to television stations via satellite downlink. The week of April 4th the 30-second PSAs will be available for television stations to download. Detailed satellite downlink information including dates and times of the downlink will be available on-line at [www.cdc.gov/nip/events/niiw/2005/05default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/events/niiw/2005/05default.htm). English and Spanish-language resources to support NIIW activities and promote infant immunization are available on-line at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/events/niiw/2005/05default.htm>. For local Leon County Health Department Immunization activities, please check our website at <http://www.co.leon.fl.us/LCPHU/nursing/immunizations.asp>

